**Friday, August 28, 2015**

**Note: If the students are not going to college, have them create a career essay.**

**Objective:**

The students will construct a Collins Type 5 College Application Essay.

**Activity:**

**DAY ONE**: Discuss [what makes a great college application essay](http://www.essayhell.com/2014/04/what-makes-a-college-application-essay-great.html). The best way to help students understand what makes a great essay, and see for themselves how these essays use a different style of writing (narrative/slice-of-life), is to [share some samples](http://www.essayhell.com/category/sample-essays). ([3 Sample Essays](http://www.essayhell.com/2014/09/sample-college-app-essays-for-describe-the-world-you-come-from.html) for University of CA app.) Find some good ones, even a couple bad ones, and have the class read them together and talk about what they liked, and what they didn’t like. Students should be encouraged to trust what they find entertaining, moving and interesting, and try to copy the literary techniques other students used in their essays. Try to find sample essays that show [the variety of topics that can work](http://www.essayhell.com/2012/10/5-top-tips-on-finding-topics-for-college-admissions-essays.html), especially those that are mundane (everyday).

**Assessment:** Formative-Teacher Observation

**Homework:** Construct a list of schools that you are interested in attending.

**Monday, August 31, 2015**

* Guidance is coming to talk to the students.
* Go over handbook

**Tuesday, September 1, 2015**

**Objective:** The students will take the handbook exam.

**Activity:**

Handbook Exam

**Assessment:** Summative-Handbook Exam

**Homework:** None

Wednesday, September 2, 2014

**Objective:**

The students will construct a Collins Type 5 College Application Essay.

Activity:

.**DAY TWO**: Help students **brainstorm** their own topic ideas. I have written [a condensed, step-by-step guide on this process](http://www.essayhell.com/2011/08/jumpstart-your-personal-statement-in-6-simple-steps.html), but also have several posts on how students can [find their defining qualities](http://www.essayhell.com/2013/01/what-are-your-defining-qualities.html), and then search for their own real-life stories that illustrate a core quality. It would be very easy to convert the steps I take students through into your own instruction–just step them through this process in class. (I also have a short guide book, [Escape Essay Hell](http://www.essayhell.com/escape-essay-hell), that maps these out in 10 steps.)

**Assessment:** Formative-Teacher Observation

**Homework:** None

**Thursday, September 3, 2015**

**Objective:**

The students will construct a Collins Type 5 College Application Essay.

**DAY THREE**: After each student has collected a short list of defining qualities, have them **brainstorm “times”** they used or developed one of these qualities in real life. Tell them that they are looking for mini-stories, called “anecdotes,” that they can share in their essays. One huge key to a great anecdote is if it involves a problem (this is your chance to talk about the power of “conflict” in a story.) [My Crash Course in How to Write an Anecdote](http://www.essayhell.com/2013/08/everything-you-ever-wanted-to-know-about-anecdotes.html).

Try to find examples of anecdotes, either in sample college admissions essays or at the start of magazines or feature stories in the newspaper. (All the sample essays in Heavenly Essays use anecdotes, and the last chapter of Escape Essay Hell showcases examples of anecdotes.) You could even assign students to find one on their own and bring it to class. [My posts on anecdotes](http://www.essayhell.com/category/writing-advice/anecdotes) not only explain what they are, but have details on how to craft them. Teach this process to your students–and you will have given them one of the most powerful writing techniques around.

**Assessment:** Formative-Teacher Observation

Homework: Finish assignment.

**Friday, September 4, 2015**

**Objective:**

The students will construct a Collins Type 5 College Application Essay.

Activity:

The students will begin to construct a perfect college essay.

Assessment: Rubric

Homework:

Finish Essay